

REMARKS

Review and reconsideration of the Office Action of February 8, 2005, is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the detail and helpful comment regarding the specification and claims.

In particular, the Examiner has indicated that claims 21-35, 38-49 and 51-58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants:

- incorporate claim 28 into claim 11, making claims 11-20, 36, 37 and 50 allowable;
- incorporate claims 11 and 17 into claim 27, making claim 27 allowable;
- incorporate claim 11 into claim 28, making claim 28 allowable;
- incorporate claim 11 into claim 29, making claims 29-35 allowable;
- incorporate claims 11, 36 and 37 into claim 38, making claims 38-40 allowable;
- incorporate claims 11, 36 and 37 into claim 41, making claims 41-44 allowable;
- incorporate claims 11, 36 and 37 into claim 45, making claim 45 allowable;
- incorporate claims 11, 36 and 37 into claim 46, making claims 46-47 allowable;
- incorporate claims 11, 36 and 37 into claim 48, making claims 48-49 allowable; and
- incorporate claims 11 and 36 into claim 51,

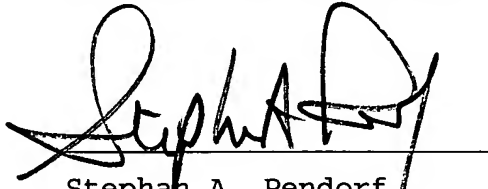


making claims 51-58 allowable.

Accordingly, all claims are in condition for allowance.

As there are no further objections or rejections, early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further suggestions, she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,


Stephan A. Pendorf
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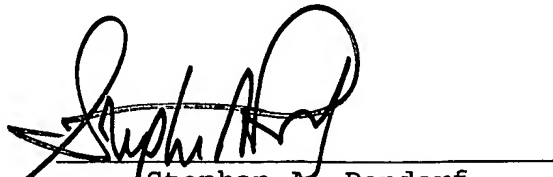
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Date: May 9, 2005

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT A for U.S. Application No. 10/712,125 filed November 13, 2003, was deposited in first class U.S. mail, with sufficient postage, addressed: Attn: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 9, 2005.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.


Stephan A. Pendorf